

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /060 W
----- 076108

R 111200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3228
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PINT, PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY RECTOR ELECTED

REF: MANAGUA A-02, JAN 4, 1074

1. DR. MARIANO FIALLOS OYANGUREN, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, WAS ELECTED RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAN) THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 9. DR. FIALLOS RECEIVED 33 VOTES AND HIS ONLY OPPONENT, UNAN SECRETARY GENERAL DR. ALEJANDRO SERRANO CALDERA RECEIVED 21. ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION WERE 48 FACULTY MEMBERS AND EIGHT STUDENTS, ONE REPRESENTING EACH OF THE EIGHT FACULTIES.

2. FIALLOS FOLLOWS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER WHO WAS UNAN'S FIRST ELECTED RECTOR AFTER THE UNIVERSITY RECEIVED AUTONOMY IN 1958. THE ELDER FIALLOS DIED IN OFFICE IN 1964 AND SINCE THAT TIME UNAN HAS BEEN PRESIDED OVER BY DR. CARLOS TUNNERMANN BERNHEIM WHO WAS TWICE RE-ELECTED. FIALLOS WILL BEGIN HIS FOUR YEAR TERM MARCH 27. HE IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW A MORE

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CONCILIATORY POLICY TOWARD THE GON IN THE INTERESTS OF INCREASING

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE FOR A UNIVERSITY WHICH DESPERATELY NEEDS IT. TUNNERMANN'S POOR RELATIONS AND OCCASIONAL CLASHES WITH GENERAL SOMOZA OVER THE NINE YEARS OF HIS RECTORSHIP HAVE RESULTED IN SOMOZA GIVING UNAN A MINIMUM BUDGET AND WITHHOLDING APPROVAL FOR MOST INTERNATIONAL LOANS.

3. AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE ELECTION WAS THE FACT THAT STUDENT VOTES FROM SIX OF THE EIGHT FACULTIES WERE CAST FOR SERRANO DESPITE THE FREnte ESTUDiANTiL REVOLUCiONARIO'S (FER) CALL FOR STUDENT ABSTENTION. THE REVOLUTIONARY MARXiST FER HAS DOMINATED STUDENT POLITiCS IN RECENT YEARS, AND MOST UNIVERSITY OBSERVERS WERE SURPRiSED THAT ITS PURPORETD STRONG CONTROL OF THE STUDENTS COULD BE SO BLATANTLY DEFiED. IN THE FER'S ANALYSIS FIALLOS WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRO-SOMOZA "BOURGEOiSiE" BECAUSE OF HIS EXPRESSED DESiRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND SERRANO OF THE OPPOSiTION "BOURGEOiSiE" BECAUSE OF HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE SACASA-CHAMORRO GROUP. FACiNG SUCH AN "IMPOSSiBLE CHOiCE" THE FER CALLED FOR STUDENTS TO ABSTAIN. SOME OBSERVERS BELiEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FER FAViORED SERRANO BUT FELT HE DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN AND DID NOT WANT TO RISK ITS PRESTiGE BY BACKiNG A LOSER. A MORE OMINOUS iNTERPRETATION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE FER WANTED THE MORE MODERATE FIALLOS ELECTED BECAUSE HE WOULD PROVOKE CONFRONTATIONS WITH STUDENTS WHICH WILL HELP CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCiVE TO REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY.

SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU00124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740148/aaaabszd.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANAGUA A-02, JAN 4, 1074
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIVERSITY RECTOR ELECTED
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, PGOV, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005